

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CPR-02 L-03 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-05 MCT-01
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 OC-06 /084 W
-----029681 231539Z /42

Z 231507Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7615
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 10641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: NEW YORK INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 159863, (B) MANILA 10523

1. HAVE JUST FINISHED EVENING MEETING WITH MARCOS AND ROMULO AT MALACANANG. (COMMENT: ROMULO ATTENDED AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST. OUR MEETING FOLLOWED A CEREMONY AT PRESIDENCY COMMEMORATING 80TH (*)ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ROMULO'S SPEECH CONTAINED A FEW UN-PLEASANT PHRASES ABOUT OUR TAKEOVER OF THE PHILIPPINES AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND OUR DEALINGS WITH THE GOP IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-INDEPENDENCE ERA. HE ACCUSED US IN EFFECT OF HAVING TRAPPED THE GOP INTO THE COLD WAR BY INSISTING ON MAINTAINING OUR MILITARY BASES HERE. THE PRESIDENT'S OWN SPEECH WAS FAR MORE STATESMANLIKE AND WITHOUT NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO THE USG. END COMMENT).

2. PRESIDENT LED OFF WITH QUESTION, "WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE NEW YORK INCIDENT?". I REPLIED THAT WE WERE PUSHING HARD FOR RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER AND HOPED TO HAVE DEFINITIVE NEW YORK POLICE REPORT LATER TODAY. HE
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CONFIRMED HE HAD HAD REPORT OF JUNE 22 ROMUALDEZ-NEWSOM MEETING.

3. MARCOS THEN PASSED ME SWORN STATEMENTS GIVEN BY DACALANIO AND CEBUANG TO PRIVATE LAWYER IN NEW YORK AND FORWARDED TELEGRAPHICALLY BY GOP CONGEN. BOTH STATEMENTS, PRESIDENT OBSERVED, INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME

SORT OF MIDNIGHT "RUMPUS" OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINE CENTER WHICH HE ASSUMED HAD PROVOKED POLICE ACTION. (COMMENT: NEITHER STATEMENT MENTIONED POSSESSION OR DISPLAY OF REVOLVER BY ANYONE INVOLVED IN INCIDENT OTHER THAN BY POLICE OFFICERS. END COMMENT). MARCOS SAID CONSULATE STAFF HAD REPORTED RECENT INCREASED N.Y. POLICE ACTION AGAINST BLACKS AND PUERTO RICANS, AND KILLING OF BLACK OUTSIDE OF PHILIPPINE CENTER. THIS HAD BADLY SHAKEN FILIPINO PERSONNEL.

4. MARCOS SAID THE PRESENT INCIDENT HAD BECOME HIGHLY EMBARRASSING TO HIM. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS ENCOURAGED THOSE WHO ACCUSED FILIPINO POLICE OF BRUTALITY TO GO TO COURT AND FILE CHARGES, AND ASKED MY OPINION WHETHER I THOUGHT GOP SHOULD FILE AGAINST NEW YORK POLICE INVOLVED. I SAID THIS WAS A DECISION FOR GOP TO MAKE, BUT RECOMMENDED THAT SINCE WE EXPECTED FINAL POLICE REPORT LATER TODAY IN WASHINGTON, PERHAPS HE MIGHT WISH TO DELAY DECISION ON FILING OF CHARGES UNTIL HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE SIDE BY SIDE THE DIFFERING VERSIONS OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PHILIPPINE CENTER. HE AGREED.

5. MARCOS SAID, "YOU MUST REALIZE I AM HAVING A HECK OF A TIME TRYING TO STOP FURTHER REACTION HERE." NOTED THAT SOME ASSEMBLY MEMBERS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION YESTERDAY HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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URGED HIM TO AUTHORIZE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST EMBASSY, WHILE OTHERS HAD RECOMMENDED A BREAK-OFF OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD THEM IT WAS FOOLISH TO PROPOSE EITHER REACTION. ROMULO CHIMED IN TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING HIS PREPARED FOREIGN POLICY BRIEFING OF THE ASSEMBLY BECAUSE HE KNEW THIS WOULD STIR UP A HORNET'S NEST OF ATTACKS ON USG IN WAKE OF NEW YORK INCIDENT. FONMIN ADDED HE STILL FELT WE WOULD HAVE TREATED VIOLATION AGAINST EUROPEAN CONSULAR PREMISES MORE QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY. I FLATLY DISAGREED.

6. PRESIDENT ASSERTED THAT WHEN AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES HAD SUFFERED ANY DAMAGE, "WE HAVE ALWAYS APOLOGIZED. WE EXPECT THE SAME TREATMENT FROM YOU AND NOW WE SENSE YOU ARE HESITATING. YOU HAVE YOUR PRIDE BUT WE HAVE OURS ALSO." I REPLIED WE WERE NOT HESITATING, BUT WERE AWAITING THE FINAL POLICE REPORT AND CITED OAKLEY'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ THAT IF POLICE REPORT WARRANTED IT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO APOLOGIZE. MARCOS INDICATED THAT AN APOLOGY WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HIM. HE URGED

ME TO MAKE SURE THAT UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM WAS AWARE OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE "HE UNDERSTANDS MY PROBLEMS WITHIN MY GOVERNMENT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE IN WASHINGTON." I ASSURED HIM NEWSOM WAS FULLY BRIEFED.

7. AT END OF MEETING, PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN TOMORROW, SATURDAY, BUT ASKED ME TO PASS N.Y. POLICE REPORT OR ANY FURTHER NEWS TO ROMULO WHO WOULD HAVE WAY TO CONTACT HIM.

8. COMMENT: ROMULO'S INTERJECTIONS WERE UNHELPFUL BUT I DID NOT SENSE MARCOS NEEDED ANY EGGING ON TO AIR HIS PROB-

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ACTION EA-12

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HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 JUSE-00 DODE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 10641

LEMS WITH LOCAL REACTIONS TO THE INCIDENT. MARCOS ALSO REHASHED ESSENCE OF HIS PREVIOUS PRESENTATION TO ME AND OTHERS ABOUT HOW MUCH DISCONTENT HE WAS FACING WITHIN HIS CABINET OVER OUR CONTINUED MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. (HE MENTIONED ENRILE BY NAME BUT SAID MINDEF HAD SUPPORT OF OTHER MINISTERS). HE NOTED THAT HE WAS STILL CONFIDENT OF HIS OWN MILITARY'S LOYALTY AND READINESS TO FOLLOW HIS DIRECTION BUT STRAIN ON OUR RELATIONS SUCH AS N.Y. INCIDENT WAS "DISCOURAGING." HE SPOKE QUIETLY AND WITH A CERTAIN EARNESTNESS IN ASKING US TO HELP HIM OUT.

9. MARCOS MAY BE HAVING US ON SINCE THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE HE IS HIMSELF DIRECTING THE STIRRING UP OF LOCAL REACTIONS TO THE INCIDENT. I JUDGE THAT HIS PRIDE IS IN ANY CASE NOW ENGAGED IN GETTING A USG "APOLOGY" AND THIS IS THE MAGIC WORD HE WILL KEEP PRESSING US TO SAY. END COMMENT. MURPHY

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